

Effort on behalf of Wallenberg seen overdrive

By Albert Friedman

Sometime soon, the Swedish government is expected to disclose part of the 7,000 documents it holds concerning Raoul Wallenberg, who disappeared in Budapest behind Soviet lines in 1945. Wallenberg, a compassionate Swedish diplomat of almost legendary courage, was revered as "The Moses of the North" by Hungarian Jews, at least 25,000 of whom (and probably many thousands more) owe their lives to him.

Wallenberg's seizure by Soviet forces, his alleged death in a Soviet prison, and the periodic reports of his subsequent reappearance, were detailed in last week's issue of this newspaper in an article by Mautica Samuelsen.

Previously, notables the world over, including Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Arthur Golden, were credited with helping to persuade Swedish authorities to open part of the Wallenberg file. Ordinarily, diplomatic files are not made public until 50 years have passed.

The question is, how much will be revealed and how much concealed? Dr. Thomas Lantos and his wife Katrina of Alexandria are hoping the Swedish action will clear up the 33-year-old mystery of Wallenberg's disappearance. But they are painfully apprehensive about the value of and-picked-up and possibly censored.

TV documentary to portray Jewish life in Poland

Ben Galob NEW YORK (JTA) — The first English-language documentary for American television showing on the culture and pre-lost Jewish life in Poland is now under production under auspices of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research with the aid of nearly \$110,000 in grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

tions of the record that are apt to be revealed. Katrina and Thomas Lantos are among the multitudes who owe their survival to Wallenberg's incredible rescue mission in Nazi-occupied territories. They are now engaged in a kind of rescue mission of their own: To enlist public opinion in an effort to persuade Swedish and Soviet authorities to bare the complete record of the Wallenberg case — including his possible whereabouts today. Mrs. Lantos has written to political leaders throughout the country urging them to use their influence on behalf of Wallenberg.

Dr. Thomas I. Lantos, an economist and legislative aide on Capitol Hill, was stirred into action on Wallenberg's behalf when he chanced upon a paragraph in the New York Times early this year. It referred to information received by Nazi-bunker Simon Wiesenthal that Wallenberg had been seen alive, as late as 1975, at the Irkutsk Psychiatric Hospital, although, in one of Russia's several versions of Wallenberg's fate, he had died in Alibanka Prison in 1947 — and a death warrant had been issued at the time.

Wallenberg was apparently abducted by the Soviets on a mission for Soviet Jews. To Swedish government requests for information, the Soviet authorities initially replied that he had probably been killed by Hungarian fascists. Later, they said he had died in a prison.

In subsequent years, however, prisoners at Soviet installations reported they had seen Wallenberg. Most recently, two East European emigrants reported they had information he had been transferred from a camp near Irkutsk to Kazakhstan and, in 1972, to Vladimir.

Although the Swedish government has made proper representations to the USSR regarding Wallenberg's fate, it has, in the opinion of some observers, started only a fraction of the political chout of its disposal. It has apparently not, for instance, considered the possibility of retaliation against known Soviet agents operating in Sweden — a tactic more or less common in Eastern Bloc conflict, which has led to many East-West prisoner exchanges.

Many mysteries. Aside from the central mystery of Wallenberg's disappearance, there are many unanswered questions. Why did he go? What led to the Russian belief in the existence of another Swedish national? What led to the release of Wallenberg? Wallenberg was a year-old mother and a young professional. Have pleaded with the Russians for help? Did he about Wallenberg, but they have not. Last seems to have been the Swedish embassy in Moscow has been evidenced to date is a Swedish Wallenberg young from one of the most honest and most articulate families in Sweden ("through a combination of Wallenberg's father and mother's reality" is the way one observer put it). But when he came in 1947, out of nowhere, in Nazi-occupied territory, it is not in order to escape — it is to help.

Wallenberg's mission in Poland is now under production under auspices of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research with the aid of nearly \$110,000 in grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Among other vexing questions are, why did the Russians capture Wallenberg in the first place — and why, after they had him in custody, did they not release him? There are no certain answers, but it is believed one motive for his abduction was she greed. Wallenberg was carrying a fortune in gold, provided by American Jewish organizations for use in ransoming Jewish captives. It is reported that once the Soviet military stripped Wallenberg of his cash, he feared to release him because of the ensuing scandal — at a time when the Soviet Union was courting Western good-will.

It would be unfair to imply that the Swedish government did nothing to obtain information about Wallenberg over the more than three decades since his disappearance. By 1975, it seems inconceivable that not nearly enough has been done by Sweden and for that matter by the general public, including the Jewish community, to help him.

Asked why he stayed, Thomas I. Lantos brought freedom to many dissidents in the Soviet Union. Wallenberg, however, did not yet inspire the kind of effort on his behalf that he surely deserves. We owe him a debt that can never be repaid.

Wallenberg's daring-do and resourcefulness in saving Jews from the gas chambers merit the attention of novelists and poets. He was a magnificent hero, and a righteous gentleman in the full meaning of the word, and he was for all the Jews of this world — our brother.

In case you're interested, the Overseas Citizens for Wallenberg, c/o Dr. Thomas P. Lantos, is located at 5650 Cameron Run terrace No. 209 Alexandria, Va. 22303. A note to the Soviet and Swedish embassies calling for full disclosure of Wallenberg's fate, might also be helpful.

The undersigned is making an offer to buy any of the following: The offering is made only by the undersigned.

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Opening Wallenberg files to be delayed a year

It will be "at least" a year before the Swedish government releases any of its 7,000 documents on Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who disappeared behind the Iron Curtain 31 years ago while on a mission to save European Jews.

A representative of the Swedish embassy in Washington so informed *The Jewish Week*, stating that delay is in compliance with Swedish law to avoid violations of Swedish security.

Wallenberg's diplomatic and political efforts are said to have resulted in the rescue of at least 24,596 Hungarian Jews from the Nazis. Recent reports of Wallenberg's appearance in various prison camps of the

Soviet Union have prompted renewed efforts on his behalf.

Concerned Citizens for Wallenberg is urging the public to write to the Swedish embassy in Washington to ask that files on Wallenberg be released as quickly as possible. The Swedish government has not indicated which of the files will eventually be made public in support of Wallenberg's claims that they will show how he risked his Swedish diplomatic career to help Jews escape—and his possible whereabouts today.

Concerned Citizens for Wallenberg, c/o Dr. Thomas F. Lander, is located 1050 Cameron Road, Suite No. 300, Alexandria, Va. 22304.

Edward L. Hall, Jr. Staff Writer

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Why would Soviet technicians on Wonsan Island be interested in U.S. atomic secrets? An actual, not just cynical, one collaboration with their Soviet counterparts to keep the truth from the American people. Eisenhower should certainly be one of those called to testify, when and if the Congress finally gets around to investigating the case.

There is also Dr. Ronald Slough. You will remember that Slough signed the Anchorage statement as chairman for the United States; but he still is apparently unaware that there was anything more to it than an agreement about animals. Slough tells us that, with regard to the polar-bear work, the Soviets turned us down the first year with the explanation that they weren't geared for it; so there was no expedition again. And, the third year, the same thing happened. Yes, there have been no expeditions! And this would tend to indicate that, as we have seen, the real purpose of

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It is typical
of the kind evidence
accumulated +
rejected by Swedish
government